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the marriage contract
sealed the unicorn
caught in chains. (does
anne dream the years
in front of these threads,
the beast tied to the
pomegranate tree, the
end and the beginning,
the ripening fruit in
the tree of her body

PULLING THE TOWER OF BABEL OUT OF DUST

out of the plains of
old mesopotamia
in the ruins of babylon

deep under a field of
water men are
reading wedge
shaped writing

the euphrates in the
distance sheep and
goats grazing in the
ruins of the palace
ringing of sheep bells

hammurabi and nebuchadnezzar
made love and died here
alexander the great
caught malaria
and couldn't leave

the bricks were lugged away
salt ate the stones
the hanging gardens

deep under the earth
now these rows of bulls
mythical beasts scaly
forked unicorns
with eagle claws

standing out in relief
from the flaking brickwork
their glazed colors
long since worn away